

**JOINT STUDY SESSION:
COMMUNITY SERVICES &
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION &
HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION**



January 20, 2021
5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Roll Call

The study session with the Community Services and Development Commission and the Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) was called to order virtually on the above date with the following members and staff in attendance:

Commissioners Present

Marshall Doake
Chad McComas
Jason Bull
September Flock
Rebecca Erickson
Tom Sramek
Marie Cabler
Randell Embertson, Chair
Jason Elzy, Vice Chair
Randy Jones
Debra Lee
John Michaels
Paul Tanner, joined late
Carol Fiddler, joined late

Commissioners Absent

Barbara Laskin
Jason Elzy
Steven Erb
Randy Jones
Matthew Stranahan

Staff Present

Angela Durant, Staff Liaison
Eric Mitton, Legal Staff Liaison

Staff Absent

Clay Bearnson, City Council Liaison
Aleia Fletcher, Staff Liaison

Guest Present

Kelly Madding, Deputy City Manager

Introductions

Marie Cabler, Chair of the Community Services and Development Commission thanked all for attending the joint session. City staff reviewed Zoom meeting etiquette and all present introduced themselves prior to recapping previous sprung structure presentations and the objective of the study session.

10. Sprung Structures & Modular Housing Options for Medford (R)

Commissioners proceeded in an open discussion of potential uses, locations, funding, land use and permitting considerations, and next steps. Clarifications were requested on the intended use and variant from recent activity with hotel acquisition. Staff provided clarity about potential projects including Project Turnkey and Navigation Center, with the latter potentially positioned for a state grant of \$2.5 Million through HB 2004. Staff confirmed these funds would be granted to the City of Medford for the creation of a navigation center with eligible expenses including acquisition of a building, land, and/or rehabilitation. This may include the acquisition of sprung structure.

Concerns about complexity, sustainability, priorities, portability, scarcity of resources, and attracting people from outside of the area were expressed. Targeting a priority focus was suggested, such as people with disabilities, people sleeping in their cars that have a job, people couch surfing, people living on the greenway, etc. Trying to do too much with limited resources was highlighted, in addition to funding streams with restrictions. Other voiced concerns including appropriate property location and building area, neighbors and businesses in the area, and funds available to cover operating costs.

Commissioner Bull provided the group with a summary of the triage process used at the Gospel Mission and informed the group that proximately 30% of the people they see do not want help, about 50% of people will want help through a navigation center, and about 50% of people they help are from out of town (not from this community). Establishing a strong referral system through a navigation center was emphasized, as well as the need for additional resources during severe weather event and to address mental health crises; and potentially providing transitional housing based on sliding fee schedule. The group was reminded of each commission's role as an advisory body to City Council.

The group discussed the importance of exploring existing empty buildings for potential use as a navigation center and the need to incorporate other resources in the region's continuum; the need for more low-barrier shelter resources and car camping sites; the impact of the Alameda Fire; capacity of the Urban Campground, and spreading homeless service locations across the city and not all in the west side. Several commissioners expressed the desire to have access to homeless data and revisited the primary objectives of the study session.

Staff was requested to bring back additional research for consideration including homeless data; what other cities around Medford are doing and the level of collaboration among those cities such as Central Point, Eagle Point, Phoenix, Talent & Ashland and even further up north; the pros and cons of a sprung structure versus an existing building for a navigation center and what agencies could be involved in operations. The desire of the commissioners would be to explore each of these areas in preparation for \$2.5 Million from the state.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.